📞 +1(818)-835-2515 🚫 HP Printer Says “Cartridge Not Recognized”? January 2026 Firmware 2602A/B Broke 11 Models – Fix It Now! 📞 +1(818)-835-2515

Introduction: The HP Cartridge Crisis of 2026

If your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” you are not alone. Thousands of users worldwide faced this exact issue starting in late January 2026. The culprit? A forced firmware update—specifically firmware 2602A/B—that quietly disabled millions of third-party and remanufactured ink cartridges overnight.

The January 2026 firmware 2602A/B broke 11 models, leaving printers useless and users frustrated. When your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” it’s not a hardware failure—it’s a deliberate block. This guide explains why it happened, which printers are affected, and most importantly—how to fix it now. 📞 +1(818)-835-2515

What Is Firmware 2602A/B and Why Did HP Release It?

On January 29, 2026, HP released firmware version 2602A/B across at least 11 printer models. This update expanded HP’s long-standing Dynamic Security feature—a system designed to authenticate cartridges using HP-authorized chips. When a HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” it means the printer’s firmware has detected a non-HP chip and rejected the cartridge entirely.

HP claims Dynamic Security protects users from counterfeit products and potential cyber threats. However, critics—including the International Imaging Technology Council (I-ITC)—describe it as a form of digital rights management that restricts consumer choice and increases waste. When your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” you are experiencing the direct result of this policy.

The 11 HP Printer Models Affected by Firmware 2602A/B

The January 2026 firmware 2602A/B broke 11 models, including older devices that had worked perfectly with third-party cartridges for years. Among the confirmed models is the OfficeJet Pro 7720—a wide-format printer introduced nearly nine years ago. Other affected models include various OfficeJet Pro series printers that use 953/957 series cartridges.

If your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” check your model number. The firmware 2602A/B update impacted printers across multiple product lines. The update began rolling out in January and continued appearing on some devices through February 2026.

Why Does Your HP Printer Say “Cartridge Not Recognized”?

When your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” it’s usually one of three things:

1. Firmware Block (Most Common) – The firmware 2602A/B update intentionally disables cartridges without HP-authorized chips. If you’re using remanufactured or third-party cartridges, this is almost certainly the cause.
2. Physical Issues – Sometimes your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized” due to protective tape still on the contacts, dirty copper strips, or improper installation. Always check these first.
3. HP+ or Instant Ink Restrictions – Some HP+ printers permanently reject non-genuine cartridges with no workaround available.

The January 2026 firmware 2602A/B broke 11 models specifically through the first category—intentional firmware blocking.

How to Fix It When Your HP Printer Says “Cartridge Not Recognized”

📞 +1(818)-835-2515 – Call now for immediate assistance!

Fix #1: Disable Automatic Firmware Updates

The best defense is prevention. If your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” future updates could make things worse. Access your printer’s Embedded Web Server (EWS) and disable automatic updates. Look for “Printer Update” settings and select “Do Not Check” or “Disable.”

Fix #2: Use Firmware-Compatible Cartridges

Not all third-party cartridges are created equal. Some manufacturers now produce cartridges specifically designed to work despite the firmware 2602A/B block. When your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” switching to a compatible brand that updates its chips can resolve the issue.

Fix #3: Perform a Hard Reset

Sometimes a simple reset works. Remove all cartridges, unplug the printer for 2 minutes, plug it back in, and reinstall the cartridges firmly. If your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized” after this, move to the next step.

Fix #4: Consider Firmware Rollback (Advanced)

In some cases, you can downgrade to an older firmware version that doesn’t block third-party cartridges. This process is technical and carries risks—but when your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” it may be your only option if you rely on affordable ink.

Fix #5: Call the Experts

📞 +1(818)-835-2515 – If your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized” and none of these fixes work, professional help is available. The January 2026 firmware 2602A/B broke 11 models, but technicians can often restore functionality through advanced diagnostics and firmware solutions.

The Bigger Picture: Sustainability and Consumer Rights

The firmware 2602A/B update has drawn scrutiny under new environmental rules. EPEAT 2.0—a global sustainability standard launched in December 2025—explicitly prohibits firmware that blocks remanufactured cartridges. When your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” it may violate these new criteria. The I-ITC has accused HP of prioritizing profits over sustainability.

Conclusion: Don’t Let a “Cartridge Not Recognized” Error Stop You

When your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized,” remember: it’s not broken—it’s blocked. The January 2026 firmware 2602A/B broke 11 models, but solutions exist. Whether you disable auto-updates, switch to compatible cartridges, or seek professional help, you can get back to printing.

📞 Call +1(818)-835-2515 now – Don’t wait when your HP printer says “cartridge not recognized.” The firmware 2602A/B issue has affected thousands, but help is just a phone call away. Fix it now and save money on ink for good! 📞 +1(818)-835-2515